

# Natchez Trace

## Sustainability Features

### Outdoor Classroom

Natchez Trace State Park has enjoyed working with children of all ages in the field of Environmental Education. The park's Outdoor Classroom is an Environmental Educational program that is available to many different groups. History, Astronomy and Ecology are some of the areas that groups may choose to cover in park programs. This program is offered roughly concurrent with the nine-month school year (Labor Day through Memorial Day).

### Historical Significance

Natchez Trace has a history going back to the original Natchez Trace Pathway used first by animals as they migrated and foraged for food, then by the primitive tribes and Native Americans. Famous explorers such as De Soto, Lewis and Clark traveled the Natchez. Later, boatman used the Natchez Trace as a pathway home after they would travel down river to sell their goods and boats for lumber. The Natchez Trace was known by such names as the Devils Backbone and Robbers Road due to the dangers men faced when traveling home with their pockets full of gold. By the 1930's the land now known as Natchez Trace State Park and Forest was so badly eroded by the poor farming

practices of those days that gullies ran through the whole area. Making a living off of the land became harder for the people. During this time President Roosevelt's administration began its Resettlement Program turning these eroded lands into the State Parks that we have today.

### Did You Know?

Natchez Trace is a 10,154 acre state park located within a 48,000 acre state forest and wildlife management area. The Tennessee Division of State Parks, Tennessee Division of Forestry and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency share administration of this area.



## Park Highlights

- Visited by 1.7 million people in 2011
- Over 23 miles of hiking trails are located within Natchez Trace. Trails range from an easy mile nature walk to a 14-mile overnight trail. A Backcountry camping permit is required
- The park recently installed two Level II Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at the Inn for guest to use during their stay

